

Dear Family Members and Guests:

Greetings from Fort Jackson and the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment! The Basic Combat Training unit to which your Soldier is assigned. I am honored to be entrusted with the training and care of your Soldier. My cadre and I are committed to making every Soldier's initial Army experience a success.

Basic Combat Training (BCT) is physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. Our mission is to ensure new Soldiers successfully transition from civilian to military life. To graduate from BCT, your Soldier must pass challenging qualification tests in rifle marksmanship, physical fitness and basic Soldier skills. Although demanding, our training methods and professional Drill Sergeants ensure that every Soldier has the opportunity to succeed. We are grateful for the opportunity to train your Soldier. Your encouragement and letters from home will help your Soldier during training. Please communicate with your Soldier throughout the BCT cycle and confirm that he/she will graduate. Unfortunately, every training cycle some Soldiers become injured or do not meet all the graduation requirements and are unable to graduate and/or ship to Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

I have included the family day and graduation information below for those Soldiers that will successfully complete 10 weeks of training. You may receive an invitation in the mail with more details, if your Soldier provides an address. Once again, we look forward to seeing you to celebrate your Soldier's successful completion of Basic Combat Training in April.

Family Day for Companies A,B,C,D,E, & F is at 9:00 A.M. on Hilton Field on Thursday, 8 April 2010. Join us at Hilton Field located on Hampton Parkway, where I will introduce you to the Battalion's leaders and recognize selected Soldiers for excellence in physical training and marksmanship. Afterwards, you will be able to spend time with your Soldier, to include an opportunity to dine together at one of the pre-designated on-post clubs. Soldiers must remain on-post this day and return to the barracks before 9:00 pm that night. Please park in the designated parking and follow the instructions of the Soldiers and Military Police directing traffic. There is a lot of construction, so be patient.

Graduation for Companies A,B,C,D,E, & F is at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, 9 April 2010. Join us on Hilton Field for a ceremony to mark your Soldier's successful completion of BCT. In the event of inclement weather, graduation will be held at the Solomon Center. Soldiers are authorized an off-post pass at the conclusion of the ceremony, but must return to the barracks before 9:00 P.M.

Some Soldiers in combat support and combat service support MOS's will have to report to AIT prior to graduation. Dates for these Soldiers will vary and these Soldier's have already been identified.

Additionally, we occasionally have Soldiers who will graduate, but have not yet received their security clearances and therefore will not ship to AIT. Soldiers in this status (security holdovers) will remain on Fort Jackson following BCT.

Transportation will be provided through government means for Soldiers going to AIT. Soldiers are allowed to be transported by their family, spouses, and relatives to their next duty station - some restrictions do apply, so please check with your Soldiers chain of command before making arrangements.

On-post accommodations are limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, you may call ahead to check on availability. The number is (803) 751-5205.

The Victory Travel Office, at the Solomon Center, can assist the family and friends of graduating Soldiers in referring them to local hotels, car rentals, and travel agencies. Try to make your travel reservations two to three weeks in advance for the best possible rates. Their toll free numbers are (800) 221-3503 or (803) 751-5812.

SCOUTS OUT!

LTC Murray